

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

- Amendments -

Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be amended as indicated in the accompanying amended page(s), in which:

- Claim 1 is amended to better define the invention.

Claims 1 to 5 remain pending. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

- Remarks -

35 USC §103(a)

Independent claim 1 is rejected under §103(a) over Silverbrook et al. (US 6,612,240) in view of McElfresh et al. (US 6,843,552).

Claim 1 is amended to better distinguish over the above combination of references. As amended, claim 1 further recites first and second power supplies respectively provided at a first and second end of the printhead assembly. The second end is at an end of the printhead assembly opposite the first end.

The above amendment clarifies the arrangement of the claimed invention, in which a first group of electrical conductors and a second group of electrical conductors extend from opposite ends and connect together in a region between the first and second ends. Neither Silverbrook et al. nor McElfresh et al. teach or suggest the claimed arrangement.

Independent claim 1, and the claims dependent therefrom, are respectively submitted to be novel and inventive over the combination of cited references.

Claim 4 as pending is further submitted to be novel and inventive over the cited references, as none of the cited references describe an arrangement in which the first and second group of electrical conductors overlap each other in the region intermediate the ends of the printhead assembly. The rejection refers to Fig. 14, element 122, of Silverbrook et al. as

allegedly disclosing this arrangement. However, it is respectfully submitted that the above figure of Silverbrook et al. does not in fact illustrate an overlapping arrangement as claimed.

Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. Applicant looks forward to word of further official communication in due course.

Very respectfully,

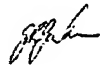
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